



The President's Daily Brief

30 December 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 December 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The last of the South Vietnamese troops used to clear Cambodia's Route 7 have returned home; the situation along Route 4 in southwestern Cambodia continues to deteriorate. (Page 1)

The North Vietnamese are stepping up their supply shipments into the Laotian panhandle, while the flow of men southward continues at a rate much below that of last month. (Page 2)

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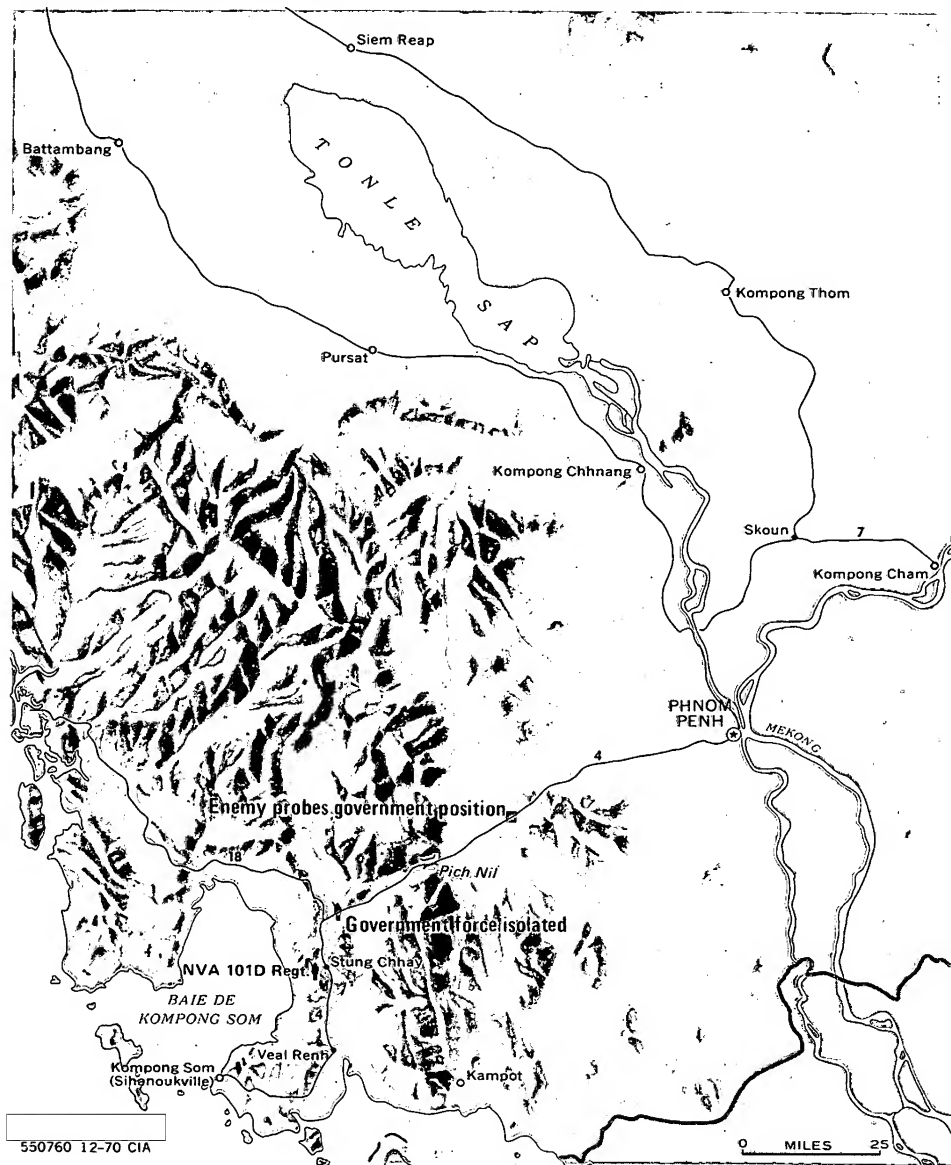
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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

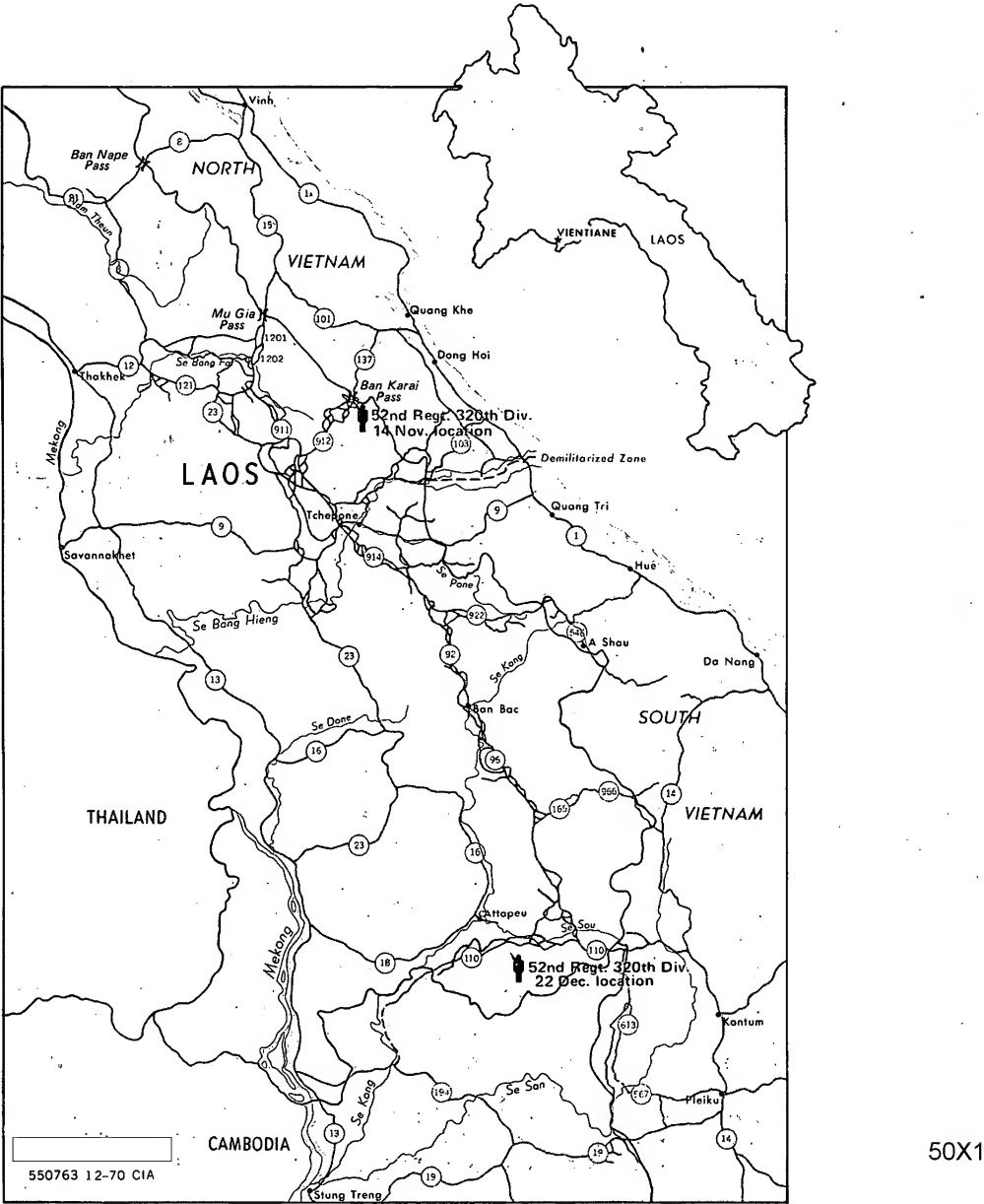
The last of the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) troops used to reopen Route 7 west of Kompong Cham city have been airlifted back to South Vietnam.

The fact that these forces met no significant resistance during their two-week operation demonstrates that the Communists once again preferred to take evasive action rather than risk heavy casualties.

Despite the growing capability of the Cambodian Army, there is some evidence that it is still not up to the job of keeping Route 7 clear. The US defense attaché reports, for example, that government positions along the road between Skoun and Kompong Cham appear to be poorly constructed and located. Several Cambodian units apparently have made no attempt to set up defensive positions and are simply living in nearby villages.

In southwestern Cambodia, the situation along Route 4 continues to deteriorate. The Communists probed government positions east of the Pich Nil pass yesterday, and elements of several government battalions southwest of the pass remain isolated. Enemy troops now control another section of Route 4, from its junction with Route 18 southward to Stung Chhay.

Intercepts show that the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment is now located just west of Stung Chhay. Elements of this unit appear to be spearheading a drive farther south along Route 4.



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INDOCHINA

An accelerated North Vietnamese logistics effort is under way. Intercepts show that during the first 20 days of December about 2,500 tons of supplies were delivered from North Vietnam to an important logistics unit in the central Laotian panhandle. However, bombings of a major Communist supply depot in the Ban Bac area of southern Laos damaged or destroyed supplies estimated to be as much as 900 tons.

The flow of men southward during December is continuing at a rate substantially below that of November. Since last week 1,400 additional North Vietnamese troops have been detected entering the infiltration pipeline.

The total for December is now 9,400 compared with 17,300 in November. Of those detected this month, 4,100 are headed for northern South Vietnam, 2,700 for southern Laos, and 2,600 for COSVN.

The 52nd Regiment of the 320th Division, which has been moving through the system from North Vietnam since September, was located last week just above the Cambodian border southeast of Attapeu. Recently the regiment communicated with COSVN authorities, raising the possibility it may move on into Cambodia.

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COMMUNIST CHINA

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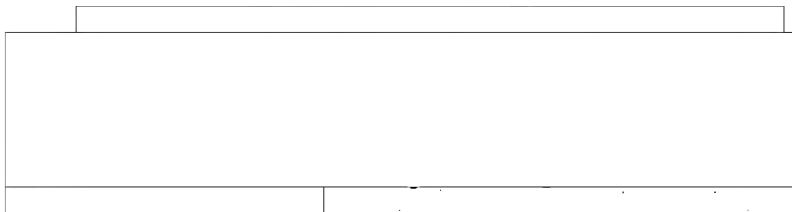
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CUBA-BOLIVIA-CHILE



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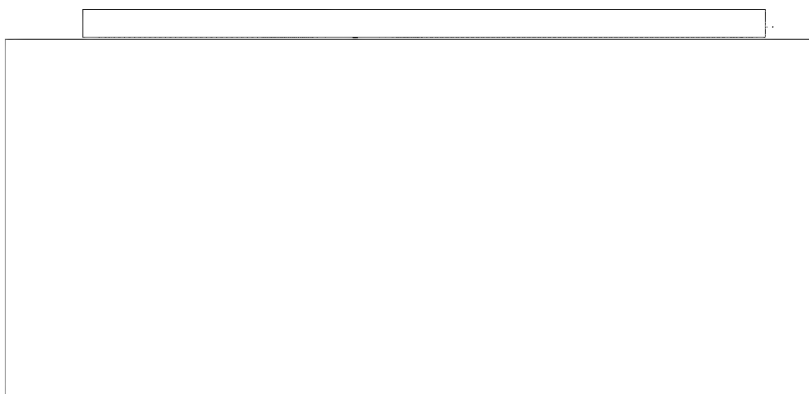


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NOTES

South Vietnam: The Communists' self-imposed three-day New Year cease-fire begins at noon today, Washington time, and the allied 24-hour military standdown will begin early tomorrow morning. The Communists are likely to abide in general by their announced cease-fire, as they did at Christmas, when there were fewer minor violations than in previous years. There are continuing signs, however, that enemy units will be more active following the holiday truces.

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USSR-GERMANY-US

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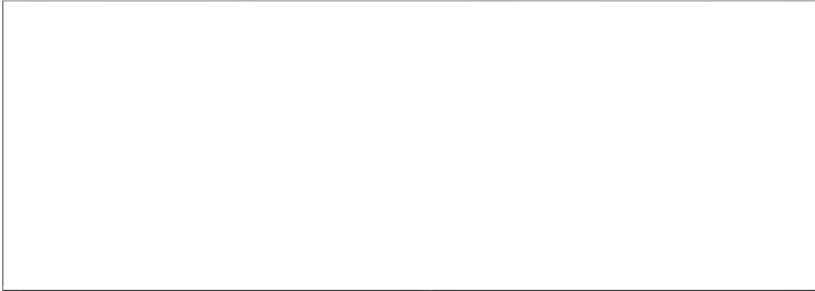
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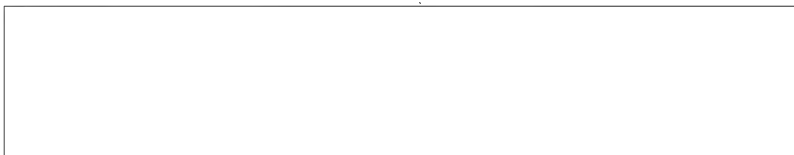


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